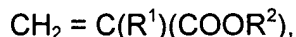


## IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (**currently amended**). A polyacrylate pressure-sensitive adhesive ~~which essentially comprises comprising~~ a polymer formed from

a) a comonomer mixture comprising

a1) 55% - 99% by weight, based on component (a), of acrylic acid and/or acrylic esters of the ~~following~~ formula:



where  $\text{R}^1 = \text{H}$  or  $\text{CH}_3$  and  $\text{R}^2$  is an alkyl chain having 1 - 20 carbon atoms,

~~at 55% - 99% by weight, based on component (a),~~

a2) 0 - 30% by weight, based on component (a), of olefinically unsaturated monomers having functional, aromatic, heteroaromatic or heterocyclic groups, or a combination of any of said groups, wherein said functional groups are specifically in particular having selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, sulfonic acid groups, ester groups, ether groups, anhydride groups, epoxy groups, amide groups, and amino groups, ~~having aromatic, heteroaromatic and/or heterocyclic groups,~~ ~~at 0 - 30% by weight, based on component (a),~~

a3) 1% - 15% by weight, based on component (a), of acrylate or methacrylate monomers having at least one functional group ~~at 1% - 15% by weight, based on component (a)~~, which is capable of reacting with a photochemically generated base b), with or without addition of a catalyst,

the polymer being thermally crosslinked at least partly with 0.01% - 25% by weight, based on the overall polymer mixture, of a base b) ~~in a fraction of 0.01% - 25% by weight, based on the overall polymer mixture.~~

Claim 2 (**currently amended**). The polyacrylate pressure-sensitive adhesive of claim 1, ~~characterized in that use is made for~~ wherein the monomers a1) are selected from the group consisting of acrylic monomers which comprise acrylic and methacrylic esters having alkyl groups consisting of 4 to 14 carbon atoms, ~~preferably 4 to 9 carbon atoms, especially n-butyl acrylate, n-pentyl acrylate, n-hexyl acrylate, n-heptyl acrylate, n-octyl acrylate, n-nonyl acrylate, lauryl acrylate, stearyl acrylate, behenyl acrylate, and/or their branched isomers, such as 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, for example.~~

Claim 3 (**currently amended**). The polyacrylate pressure-sensitive adhesive of claim 1 ~~or 2,~~  
~~characterized in that use is made for , wherein~~ the monomers a3) ~~of~~ are selected from the  
group consisting of comonomers containing at least one carboxylic acid group, one  
isocyanato group or one epoxide group, ~~preferably glycidyl methacrylate, acrylic acid,~~  
~~methacrylic acid or 2-isocyanatoethyl methacrylate.~~

Claim 4 (**currently amended**). The polyacrylate pressure-sensitive adhesive of ~~any one of~~  
~~claims 1 to 3, characterized in that as~~ claim 1, wherein said photochemically generated  
base is generated from a photobase ~~generators use is made of~~ generator selected from  
the group consisting of O-acyl oximes, anilide derivatives, ammonium salts ~~or and~~  
organometallic compounds which liberate a base under UV irradiation.

Claim 5 (**currently amended**). A process for preparing polyacrylate hotmelt pressure-sensitive  
adhesives from polymers formed from

a) a comonomer mixture comprising

- a1) 55% - 99% by weight, based on component (a), of  
acrylic acid and/or acrylic esters of the ~~following~~ formula:  
$$\text{CH}_2 = \text{C}(\text{R}^1)(\text{COOR}^2),$$
  
where  $\text{R}^1 = \text{H}$  or  $\text{CH}_3$  and  $\text{R}^2$  is an alkyl chain having 1 - 20 carbon atoms,  
~~at 55% - 99% by weight, based on component (a),~~
- a2) 0 - 30% by weight, based on component (a), of olefinically unsaturated monomers  
having functional groups, ~~specifically~~  
having selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, sulfonic acid groups,  
ester groups, ether groups, anhydride groups, epoxy groups, amide groups, and amino  
groups, or having aromatic, heteroaromatic and/or heterocyclic groups,  
~~at 0 - 30% by weight, based on component (a),~~
- a3) 1% - 15% by weight, based on component (a), of acrylate or methacrylate monomers  
having at least one functional group ~~at 1% - 15% by weight, based on component (a),~~  
which is capable of reacting with the base generated by a photobase generator b), with  
or without a catalyzing compound,

and

- b) 0.01% - 25% by weight, based on the overall comonomer mixture, of at least one photobase generator b

~~at 0.01% - 25% by weight, based on the overall polymer mixture,~~

where said photobase generator b is incorporated into the comonomer mixture by mixing or copolymerization and where the solvent-free polymer or the polymer substantially freed from solvent, with the photobase generator incorporated therein, is coated ~~with the photobase generator~~, in a hotmelt process, onto a backing, and during or after ~~its~~ coating is irradiated with UV light, thereby generating a base photochemically, and the composition is subsequently crosslinked thermally by the reaction of at least ~~of~~ component a3) with the base.

Claim 6 (currently amended). The process of claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the solvent, if present, is removed with heating under reduced pressure.

Claim 7 (currently amended). The process of claim 5 ~~or 6, characterized by placement of the , wherein the~~ polymer is placed onto a film of water, with subsequent transfer from the film of water to the backing material, the water ~~preferably~~ optionally contributing to the crosslinking of the pressure-sensitive adhesive.

Claim 8 (currently amended). The process of ~~any one of claims 5 to 7, characterized in that~~ claim 5, wherein said UV irradiation takes place during coating.

Claim 9 (currently amended). The process of ~~any one of claims 5 to 8, characterized in that~~ claim 5, wherein the polyacrylate pressure-sensitive adhesive on the backing material is irradiated with UV light over its full area and subsequently heated, for the purpose of thermal crosslinking, to a temperature of at least 80°C, ~~preferably to about 100°C~~.

Claim 10 (currently amended). The process of ~~any one of claims 5 to 8, characterized in that~~ claim 5, wherein structured polyacrylates are prepared by performing a structured crosslinking by irradiating the ~~base~~ polymer coating with ultraviolet light in such a way that only certain regions of the polymer mixture are exposed to the UV radiation.

Claim 11 (**currently amended**). The process of claim 10, ~~characterized in that the base wherein the~~ polymer coating is irradiated with ultraviolet light through a perforated mask ~~in such a way that only certain regions of the polymer mixture are exposed to UV radiation.~~

Claim 12 (**currently amended**). The process of claim 10 ~~or 11, characterized in that the base , wherein the~~ polymer coating is irradiated with ultraviolet light through a film whose surface has regions of different UV light transparency, ~~whereby in such a way that~~ certain regions of the polymer mixture are exposed to different intensities of UV radiation.

Claim 13 (**currently amended**). ~~The use of the polyacrylate pressure-sensitive adhesive of any one of claims 1 to 4 or of the hotmelt pressure-sensitive adhesive prepared according to any one of claims 5 to 12 for pressure-sensitive~~ Pressure-sensitive adhesive tapes and strips coated on one or both sides with the polyacrylate pressure-sensitive adhesive of claim 1.

Claim 14 (**new**). The pressure-sensitive adhesive of claim 2, wherein said alkyl groups consist of 4-9 carbon atoms.

Claim 15 (**new**). The pressure sensitive adhesive of claim 14, wherein said monomers a1) are selected from the group consisting of n-butyl acrylate, n-pentyl acrylate, n-hexyl acrylate, n-heptyl acrylate, n-octyl acrylate, n-nonyl acrylate, lauryl acrylate, stearyl acrylate, behenyl acrylate, and their branched isomers.

Claim 16 (**new**). The polyacrylate pressure-sensitive adhesive of claim 3, wherein the monomers a3) are selected from the group consisting of glycidyl methacrylate, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid and 2-isocyanatoethyl methacrylate.

Claim 17 (**new**). The process of claim 9, wherein said temperature is up to about 100°C.